



**GLOBAL
FinEXPO
& SUMMIT**

**21&22
OCTOBER
DUBAI**

2026

BANKING | FINANCE | INVESTMENT | FINTECH
THE RITZ CARLTON | DIFC | DUBAI | UAE

WHERE BANKING, FINANCE, INVESTMENT AND FINTECH CONVERGE

BANKING • FINANCE • INVESTMENT • FINTECH

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Global FinEXPO & Summit – Overview



Strategic platform
shaping the future of
finance



Reimagining financial
systems via tech,
policy and collaboration



Forward-looking lens on
forces reshaping global
finance

2

days

75+

speakers

100+

exhibitors

500+

delegates

5000+

visitors



Awards

Why Dubai?



Global gateway for **capital, innovation,** and **growth**



Forecast inflow of **9,800+ millionaires** in 2025 (#1 globally)



DIFC ranked 12th globally, #1 in MEA financial hub



UAE Fintech market to exceed **USD 6.4B** by 2030



Largest banking system in Arab world with **AED 4.2T+ assets**



AED 1T commitment to green finance by UAE banks



World's safest country and home to **200+ nationalities**

In Alliance with Dubai's Global Vision



Supporting Dubai's journey to become a leading global financial hub



Leveraging strong regional & international business connections



Positioned to attract capital, innovation & talent into the UAE



A bridge between emerging economies and global financial systems



What Makes GFE Different?

Only event covering the full financial ecosystem



Connects all five major financial verticals in one platform

Enables collaboration across institutions, fintech, regulation & sustainability



Truly "greater than the sum of its parts"



UAE Financial Events – Coverage Gaps

Dubai FinTech Summit

Focus: FinTech/ Digital Banking & Innovation

Gap: Banking, Insurance, Wealth

Wealth & Investment Summit Dubai

Focus: Wealth/ investment management

Gap: Banking, Insurance, Fintech

Sharjah Investment Forum

Focus: Investment/ FDI

Gap: Banking, Fintech, Insurance

Middle East Banking & Finance Summit

Focus: Banking/ Wealth/ Capital markets

Gap: Fintech

Future Finance Summit Dubai

Focus: Banking/ Fintech/ Regulations

Gap: Less Insurance, Wealth Participation

iFX Expo MENA

Focus: Brokerages/ Fintech/ Trading / Financial Services

Gap: Banking, Investment, Insurance as a whole

Finnovex Middle East

Focus: Financial services/ Fintech/ Digital Assets

Gap: Banking, Wealth, Insurance

Investopia Summit

Focus: Investment / Economy

Gap: Wealth, Fintech, Banking as an ecosystem

Forex Expo Dubai

Focus: Forex/ Trading/ Fintech

Gap: Full Banking, Investment, Insurance, Wealth Scope

WFC FinTech Dubai

Focus: Fintech/ Insurtech/ Digital Finance Innovation

Gap: Insurance, Banking, Wealth

Sharjah Investment Forum

Focus: Investment/ FDI

Gap: Insurance, Banking, Wealth

Abu Dhabi Finance Week

Focus: Banking/ Fintech/ Digital transformation

Gap: Wealth, Investment/ Insurance

4th Annual Future Banks Summit MENA 2025

Focus: Fintech/ Wealth/ Banking/ Insurance/ Investment

Gap: Niche and Premium

Why 360° financial inclusion matters in the UAE and the region



Ecosystem Depth & Vertical Convergence Gap

- The Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) hosts 260+ banking & capital markets firms, 410+ wealth & asset-management firms (including 75 hedge funds) and 125 insurance & reinsurance companies.
- While these verticals exist side-by-side, most current events focus on one or two sectors (e.g., fintech or banking). There is a clear gap for a single platform uniting banking, investment, fintech, wealth and insurance.

Why this matters: A unified event helps institutions at the intersection of those verticals capture synergy opportunities, reduce duplication and engage across the full ecosystem.



Rapid Growth Across Segments Underpins Urgency

- The UAE fintech market alone is projected to grow from USD 3.16 billion in 2024 to USD 5.71 billion by 2029.
- The DIFC reported a 25% year-on-year increase in active companies (7,700 total by June 2025) and a 19% increase in wealth-management firms to 440 in H1 2025.

Why this matters: With multiple verticals expanding simultaneously, an event that brings them together captures the momentum and enables banking institutions to engage emerging markets, partners and clients now, before the window narrows.



Wealth Migration & Capital Flows Create New Client & Partner Pools

- Global wealth migration into Dubai in 2025 is the highest globally in domicile migration.
- Family offices and private-capital clusters in DIFC manage over USD 700 billion in assets and are increasing rapidly.

Why this matters: Banks, wealth managers and fintechs that engage now via a full-suite platform will access migrating capital, new firms and partnership opportunities, positioning themselves ahead of peers who operate vertically or laterally.



Strategic Positioning & Thought-Leadership in a Global Finance Hub

- Dubai has moved into the global top-tier of financial centres, supported by national strategies like D33 and ecosystem investments.

Why this matters: Being associated with a high-profile, cross-vertical event solidifies a bank's brand as a future-forward leader in the region. It creates visibility with regulators, peers, investors and clients in a market that values integrated thought-leadership more as it diversifies.

Why **Fintechs** Should Join Global FinExpo



Rapid Market Growth

UAE fintech market projected at USD 3.56B in 2025, growing to **USD 6.4B by 2030**



Dubai as Fintech Hub

Over **60–62% of fintech firms** in the UAE are based in Dubai



Digitally Ready Market

90% smartphone penetration & **88%+** digital payments adoption



Access to Wealth

UAE to attract **9,800+ millionaires in 2025**, bringing **USD 63B** in capital



Strong Investor Confidence

Fintech startups raised **USD 265M** in 2024 with accelerating funding flows



Favorable Business Environment

Free zones, progressive regulation & efficient scaling framework



The Opportunity

Connect with HNWIs, scale in a digital-first market, under pro-growth policies

Why **Banks** Should Join Global FinExpo



Vast Customer Base

Expatriates are **88.5%** of
UAE's 11M population,
spanning 200+ nationalities



Global Banking Hub

Security, infrastructure, regulation
& customer access make Dubai a
must-have base for banks



Safe & Stable Environment

UAE ranked **#1 globally** in
Safety Index (2025)



Bank-Friendly Free Zones

100% foreign ownership, tax
exemptions, fast setup & full
profit repatriation



Strategic Location Advantage

Dubai bridges **Europe, Asia &
Africa** with world-class air & sea
connectivity



Attractive Business Climate

Zero income tax, Golden Visa
programs, and high quality of life
encourage capital & talent inflow

Why **Investors** Should Join Global FinExpo



Global FDI Leader

Dubai **attracted 643 Greenfield FDI projects in H1 2025**, highest worldwide since 2003



Strong Capital Inflows

FDI into Dubai surged **62% YoY** in H1 2025 to \approx AED 40.4B, with **1,090 projects** creating **38,433 jobs**



Top Global Ranking

UAE FDI inflows reached **AED 167.6B (USD 45.6B) in 2024**, up 49% YoY, placing UAE **10th globally**



Diverse Investment Mix

52.4% of inflows were greenfield projects, alongside VC, reinvestments & new capital sources



High-Growth Sectors

Software, IT services, business services & fintech leading Dubai's FDI growth



Investor Confidence

Policy reforms, sector diversity & strong momentum create an **ideal investment climate**



The Opportunity

Engage at Global FinExpo 2026 to connect with **capital flows, innovators & global dealmakers**

Why **Wealth Managers** Should Join Global FinExpo



Rapid Growth in DIFC

Now home to **440+** wealth & asset management firms, up from 370 in just one year



Hedge Fund Boom

72% year-on-year growth in DIFC hedge funds, creating a hotspot for alternative assets



Expanding Ecosystem

Active companies in DIFC surged **25%** to **7,700** in 2025, driving deal flow opportunities



Wealth Inflow

UAE to attract **~9,800** millionaires in 2025, unlocking new client acquisition potential



Strong Financial Performance

DIFC revenues up **37%**, operating profit up **55%** in 2024



Beyond Networking

An opportunity to **position for** the next wave of global private capital

Why **Family Offices** Should Join Global FinExpo



\$1 Trillion Opportunity

The Middle East's family office ecosystem now manages over **\$1 Trillion in assets**, with Dubai emerging as a leading destination for wealth migration and cross-border capital structuring.



Access to Global Capital Flows

2025 and beyond sees record global inflows into UAE-based family offices and investment hubs, driven by diversification from **Europe and Asia**, creating unparalleled networking and co-investment opportunities.



New Era of Intergenerational Wealth

With over **\$84 trillion** in global wealth transfers expected by 2045, FinEXPO offers a platform to align strategies on succession, governance, and legacy investments with peers and experts.



Strategic Collaboration Forum

For UAE-based family offices, FinEXPO serves as a **cross-vertical networking hub**, linking them with institutional investors, global fund managers, and innovative fintech platforms shaping the future of private wealth.



The Opportunity- Deal Flow Access

GFE brings together **banks, funds, fintechs and private offices**, offering visibility to alternative investments, structured products, and direct deals not accessible elsewhere.

Why **Insurers** Should Join Global FinExpo



Expand Distribution Horizons

Connect with **banking, wealth-management and fintech channels** in one venue, not just insurers.



Lead Innovation Conversations

With UAE insurtech/fintech market projected at **US\$3.56 billion** by 2025, GFE places Insurers at the innovation-edge.



Access High-Value Networks

UAE-based insurers are seeing GWP grow ~15% in H1 2025 (**AED 40.9 billion**), indicative of clusters of capital gathering in the UAE



Opportunity: Forge Partnerships Across Finance Verticals

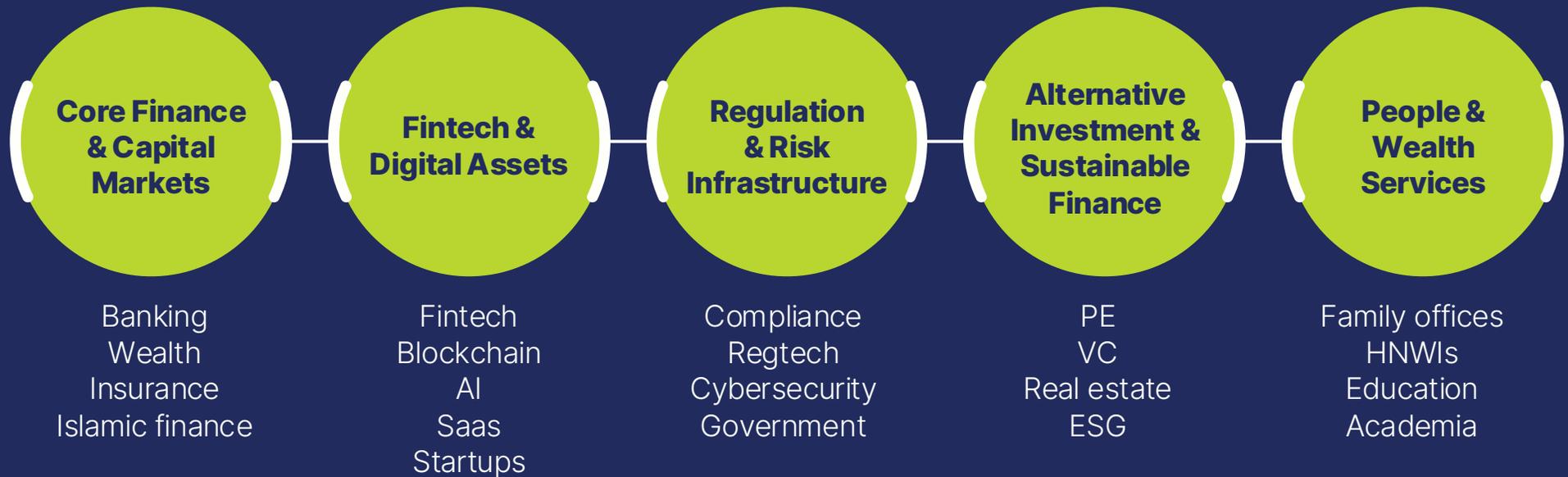
GFE is a unique platform bringing insurance together with **banking, investment, fintech and wealth**, facilitating unprecedented cross-sector exposure.



Reinforce Strategic Positioning

The UAE insurance market is expected to grow up to **20%** in 2025, a presence at a unified financial event signals leadership in a fast accelerating market.

Five Pillars of the Ecosystem



Key Themes of GFE



Who You Will Meet



C-level & senior executives shaping strategy



Banking & finance professionals driving growth



Investors, family offices & institutional capital providers



Fintech founders, blockchain & digital asset leaders



Regulators, policymakers & government representatives



Legal, risk & compliance experts



Academia, training providers & consultants

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Who Is Exhibiting?



Commercial & investment banks, neobanks, Islamic finance institutions



Fintechs, payment processors and embedded finance enabler



Crypto exchanges, tokenization platforms & Web3 innovators



Wealth managers, family offices and asset management firms



Cybersecurity, KYC/AML and RegTech solution providers



AI, analytics, SaaS & core banking tech firms



ESG, green bonds & sustainability finance platforms



Legal, tax & international advisory firms



Academic, certification & financial training institutions

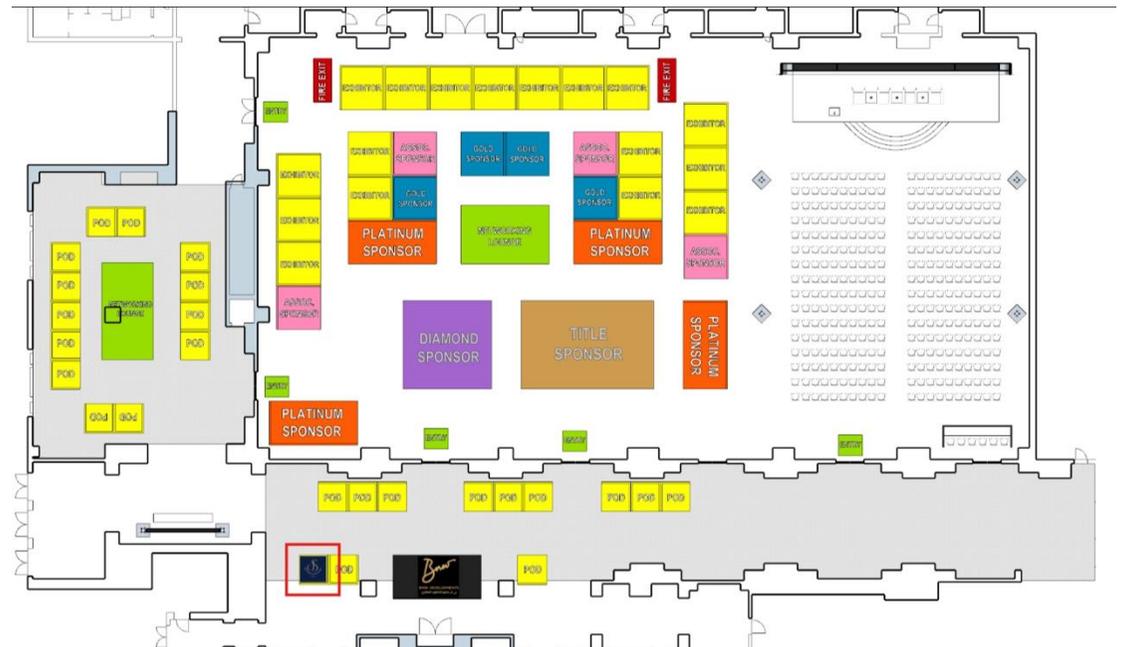
Exhibitor Layout

Premium Booths

Positioned at high-traffic areas near entrances, VIP lounges & networking hubs

Standard Booths

Located in main exhibition halls for maximum delegate interaction



Dedicated Zones



Fintech Foundry

Startup pitch arena, demo pods, accelerator showcases



Capital Circle

VIP lounges, investor roundtables, ministerial chats, regional pavilions

Curated spaces for meaningful deal-making & cross-border engagement

Finance Excellence Awards



Gala event recognizing innovation and leadership in finance



Celebrating banks, fintechs, investors, regulators & advisors

Award categories



Banking & Institutional Leadership



Fintech & Digital Asset Innovation



Sustainable Finance Leadership & ESG



Family Office & Wealth Strategy



Capital Markets & Compliance Excellence



Cybersecurity & Advisory Impact



NextGen Financial Educator

Driven by Leading Financial Experts, Bankers & Wealth Builders



Core team of financial experts,
bankers & wealth creators



Guided by an advisory board
of prominent personalities
from the UAE & beyond



Strong alliances with
businesses in emerging
economies

Organised by:



20+ years of experience
in exhibitions

In association with:





World Connect LLC is a next-generation curator of large-scale, innovative IP-driven business events that reimagines people-to-people networking. Backed by the trusted expertise of Strokes Exhibits Group and an accomplished team of industry experts, we design and deliver recurring, branded platforms that go far beyond a single edition.



WOMEN IN FINANCE LEGACY AWARDS | 2025

Celebrating and recognizing the achievements of women in finance, highlighting their leadership, innovation, and impact across the industry. Brought together 80+ C-Suite women achievers from banking, investment, and fintech to honor outstanding contributions and foster meaningful networking and mentorship opportunities.



NRI CONNECT CONVERSATIONS FOR A BETTER TOMORROW CONNECTING MINDS | SHARING VIEWS

Exclusive thought-leadership dialogue designed to convene eminent Indian voices in the UAE who have made significant contribution to business, academia, and community development. Aimed to complement the Government of India's outreach to NRI's by promoting collaboration, investment, and goodwill. Bringing together 70+ prominent Indian corporate delegates



AI FOR LEADERSHIP

LEAD THE FUTURE | 2025

The event focused on the role of AI in leadership, exploring how emerging technologies are transforming decision-making, strategy, and organizational growth. Industry experts shared insights on leveraging AI for innovation, efficiency, and forward-looking leadership in the digital era. Bringing together 70+ C-Suite Delegates



GUEST OF HONOR



DR. SHASHI THAROOR

Member of Parliament
Republic of India

Former UN
Under Secretary-General
Author & Thought Leader

Distinguished Speakers



Our Advisory Board: Driving Impact & Innovation



Adnan Al Abbar

Chairman | Al Abbar Marine LLC

Adnan Al Abbar brings with him over three decades of expertise in international trade and logistics. He has held senior leadership roles in various corporations across the UAE including a long innings at DP World before he started to lead the investments division of Al Abbar Private Investments. Known for his strategic foresight and commitment to industry growth, Adnan has been instrumental in aligning business objectives with emerging technological trends.



Ali Alrais

Founder & CEO | Alrais Group

Ali Alrais brings a wealth of experience in entrepreneurship and venture capital to the advisory board. From Aviation Management to hospitality, Ali has made success a habit and he carries on fostering a supportive environment for innovation in the region, giving shape to dreams of startups. His deep love for his country and culture combined with the zest for entrepreneurship has propelled Al Rais Enterprises to new zeniths of success.



Ayman Al Awadhi

Managing Director | AXD Space

Ayman Al Awadhi is an inspirational leadership speaker and visionary business leader dedicated to empowering startups, individuals, and organizations with the knowledge, skills, and motivation needed to excel in an ever-evolving world. He is committed to fostering leadership excellence, corporate governance, and transformational projects, embodying the spirit of an Emirati family business with a global perspective.



Sameera Fernandes

*CEO | Econova Global
Chairperson | DSIG*

Sameera Fernandes is a seasoned climate finance and sustainability expert with 22+ years of experience in investment advisory, ESG and green finance. She steers net-zero strategies and capital mobilization for sustainable ventures. At DSIG, she champions regulatory advocacy and innovation in the UAE's financial sector. A global educationist and author of three books, she drives thought leadership for inclusive, future-ready economies.



Najam Towheed

Global Strategist Shaping Markets

A seasoned entrepreneur who has founded and led multiple successful firms across the Middle East. He possesses deep expertise in crafting market-relevant strategies and has executed high-level projects with UAE government ministries and global bodies like the UN. His advisory roles include consultancy for the Dubai DED and UAE Ministry of Finance. He leverages an extensive global network and profound cultural fluency to drive impactful, cross-border initiatives.

Our Advisory Board: Driving Impact & Innovation



Banali Luthra Malhotra

Board Advisor | Marketing Visionary | Angel Investor

A bold marketing leader with over two decades of global experience, Banali Luthra Malhotra is known for building disruptive, award-winning brand campaigns that challenge convention. Former Group CMO and Chair of the CMO Network at Winmark, she combines creative storytelling with a data-driven Martech approach to drive engagement and growth. A regular industry voice, she has served on juries like the Effies and spoken internationally on digital transformation and diversity.



S Ganesh Kumar

Former Executive Director | Reserve Bank of India

A Fintech Visionary and former Central Banker who led India's transformation to digital payments, including the world-renowned UPI. With deep expertise in regulation, IT, and strategy, he now mentors fintech startups, serves on innovation boards, and champions next-gen financial systems through impactful thought leadership and institution building.



Shruthi Boosey

Founder & CEO | Alrais Group

C-suite leader and HR Management expert Shruthi Boosey brings a unique perspective from the airline industry and B2B consulting to her role as a strategic advisor. A calm and visionary leader, she is a passionate advocate for sustainability and inclusive growth, actively shaping global initiatives through board and steering council positions. She is dedicated to championing purposeful business transformation.



Gavin Morlini

Board Advisor | Marketing Visionary | Angel Investor

A seasoned Event Operations Leader with 22+ years of delivering flawless exhibitions and conferences across the Middle East. Known for precision and innovation, he has led complex builds for global brands including Messe Frankfurt, DMG Events, and Informa, mastering logistics, vendor strategy, and technical execution at scale.



Prameela Nair

Founder | Nairative Marketing Consulting

A dynamic marketing leader with over two decades of experience in financial services. Renowned for her passion for brand building, she inspires trust and drives impactful results. As the former Head of Marketing at ADCB, she spearheaded numerous integrated campaigns that transformed customer engagement and enhanced brand visibility. Now, as the Founder of Nairative Marketing Consulting, Prameela partners with businesses to develop strategies that connect data with emotion, turning insights into compelling narratives that resonate with audiences and foster growth. With a commitment to purposeful marketing, she empowers brands to discover their unique voice and create lasting stories.

Strategic Minds Powering Global FinExpo



Saeed Bardan

An accomplished public relations expert and former central bank official, specializing in economic development. With extensive experience in economic departments and free trade zones, he has cultivated a robust network of government connections. His deep understanding of financial systems and public policy positions him as an effective liaison, driving collaboration and advancing sustainable economic initiatives



Kurian Abraham

Kurian Abraham is the Chairman and Chief Editor of Dhanam Publications (P) Ltd., publisher of a leading business magazine and organizer of national and global business summits and awards. With over 37 years in journalism, he is a seasoned editor, Charter Member of TiE, and has held leadership roles in ILNA and GOPIO. A two-time award recipient, he continues to inspire through his dedication to business journalism and thought leadership.



Gilson Manuel

Founder & CEO of Strokes Exhibits Dubai, is a trailblazing business strategist with 30+ years of shaping global brands and breakthrough experiences. A bold thinker and author of Living to 100, he drives innovation, inspires teams, and builds transformative platforms that redefine business impact across industries and borders.



Thomas Zachariah

A purpose-led senior Financial Marketing & Branding Leader with over 25+ years in financial marketing across MENA. In his senior roles at Y&R (for Citibank), ADCB, NBAD, and FAB, he drove impactful brand narratives, cross-sector partnerships, and initiatives that blended commercial success with meaningful socio-economic value - guided by instinct, strategy, and deep industry insight.



Elizabeth Kuruvilla

Former Petrochemical and Oil & Gas Executive turned Sustainability Entrepreneur, led Green Shine to national acclaim, pioneering waterless auto care in the UAE. With accolades including the Dow Sustainability Prize, Admirable Woman Entrepreneur and EXPO 2020 concession, her journey exemplifies purpose-driven leadership aligned with the UAE's Green Economy vision.

Strategic Minds Powering Global FinExpo



Sazia Sayyed

A results-driven Event Excellence Specialist with 15+ years of delivering high-impact, flawlessly executed experiences. Known for her precision, tenacity, and client-first mindset, she transforms complex event visions into seamless realities - earning trust across the industry as a go-to leader for excellence in planning, execution, and guest experience.



Haris Mumtaz

A Digital Transformation Leader with 14+ years driving data-led growth across B2B, B2C, and B2G sectors. Armed with a triple MBA, he's led multimillion-dollar campaigns, shaped omnichannel strategies, and earned a Gulf Business "Marketer of the Year" nomination. A global AI speaker with insight and impact.



Titch Robinson

Co-Founder and Trustee of ARRAY Foundation, leading a visionary mission to rehabilitate spinal cord injury survivors through holistic care and workforce reintegration. A British-South African businesswoman with global experience and certifications in nutrition and wound management, she blends entrepreneurial grit with decades of purpose-driven, pro bono healing activism.



Parminder Panesar

A seasoned Marketing and Brand Strategist with 15+ years in the BFSI sector. From Birla Sun Life to Axis Bank, she has led digital innovation, crisis communications, and brand strategy - shaping impactful narratives and media engagement across marquee institutions with insight, precision, and a results-driven mindset.



T B Venugopal

A seasoned Communications Leader with 30+ years in corporate reputation, media relations, and public affairs. Having led high-stakes strategy across top agencies such as Rediffusion, Vaishnavi, Wordlab Asia and Rubique, he is trusted for his expertise in crisis management and impactful, boardroom-level communication outcomes.

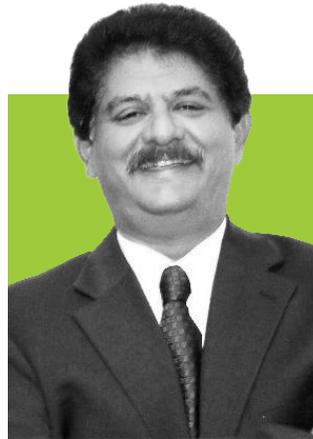
Strategic Minds Powering Global FinExpo



Hari Das M

A Stalwart of media and advertising

A media veteran with over 40 years of experience. He was a key founding member of Mudra Communications in Kochi. He later established his own venture, International Media Representation (IMR), in Kochi. His expertise includes creating special features for leading Middle Eastern publications and strategic media buying. He now applies his vast experience as the Strategic Advisor to Global FinEXPO Dubai



Zacharias Joseph

Chief ideations and operations Officer, Zach Multimedia

Marketing, branding, PR, and business development expert with 25+ years of global experience. Led restructuring for The New York Times, CSR initiatives for Vodafone, and helped build RAKBANK into an iconic brand. Passionate about transforming local brands into global names. Expertise: Marketing, branding, PR, advertising, journalism, sales, product development, entrepreneurship, and innovation.



Gealgeo Alankara

A Stalwart of Finance with a 40-Year Legacy

Over four decades of distinguished experience in commercial banking, mutual funds, and equity broking. A key promoter and architect behind the foundation of Suryoday Small Finance Bank. Expertise spans the entire spectrum of financial services, from institutional sales to retail banking.

Strategic Minds Powering Global FinExpo



Naveen George

A Global Event Strategist whose leadership has driven landmark showcases such as ITB Berlin, WTM London, and EIBTM Geneva. Renowned for elevating Kerala Tourism to international acclaim, he blends strategic vision with flawless execution - building destination brands that command influence, visibility, and global recognition.



Julie James

Co-founder and VP of Strategic Alliances at Kairos Collective, with over 20 years of global experience in insurance, healthcare, and strategic development across North America and the Middle East. She has led healthcare operations in emerging markets, managed care programs for Fortune 500 clients, and designed complex benefits and travel insurance solutions. With a background in sociology and a sharp eye for cross-cultural business strategy, Julie helps organizations navigate growth in insurance, healthcare, and corporate wellness with precision and insight.



Mary Aji

A seasoned tech marketing leader with over two decades of experience in the EMEA cybersecurity space, Mary describes herself as an "Accidental Marketer" who discovered her true calling. A passionate advocate of Tech for Good, she holds a Master's degree in Cyberpsychology, enabling her to bridge the gap between technology and human behavior in areas such as online security, digital wellness, and responsible AI. Formerly the CMO at StarLink, Mary brings a uniquely human-centric perspective to the FinExpo team.

Your Opportunity Awaits

Join Global FinExpo Dubai

Gain actionable insights into the future of finance

Expand your professional networks across banking & fintech

Discover innovations, trends & opportunities shaping global finance

Register Today

to be part of the movement shaping tomorrow's financial landscape

Call / Whatsapp now:

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